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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reactions to Communist Ideology

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Stalin's article in Bolshevik, May 1934, explaining why Engel's essay on "The Foreign Policy of Russian Czarism" was not published

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Stalin's interpretation is that the article would not make a useful contribution to the body of operating doctrine today. This, however, raises some doubts

personally would interpret this to mean that a fundamental change of line might be taking place. The article is on the general subject of war. Such articles as this indicate fundamental changes of line. Another example is the Ehrenburg line on Germany - "Kill the fascist beasts." On 14 Apr 45 an article by Alexandrov took Ehrenburg to task for "being dizzy with success" and too blood thirsty. This was taken as indicating a fundamental change of line. The Stalin article, kept on ice since 1934, is a classic prototype example of an indicator that the situation is critical and that the line may change.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Again, the 1934 date may be false for reasons of strategy. In 1934 Stalin knew that war was inevitable and might have written the article as preparation then but held it until 1941, the proper time for announcing a fundamental change. Stalin's purpose was to demolish the idea that Soviet expansion was the basic cause of war and foster the idea that imperialism was the main cause.

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[redacted] Vis-a-vis Communist theory, NEP was a realistic adjustment to recover from the disaster of War Communism. Private owners, NEP men, produced a miraculous recovery which frightened leaders who feared losing control of the people. NEP was scrapped so they could retain control.

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The Trotsky - Stalin controversy was a real struggle for power. Then, each of the old Bolsheviks had his own line and following. They were gradually liquidated by spectacular trials, etc. Now that Stalin has consolidated his power such devices are not necessary within USSR but are used abroad. Aspirants for power internally are quietly put out of the way. The use of samo-kritika has also dwindled for the same reason. Now that power has been consolidated, no major zig-zags in line are required, only minor changes are used to eliminate contestants to power. However, a fundamental change has taken place in the last few years. That is, Stalin has decided to liquidate the last vestiges of private property, on the part of peasants, as a means of political control. Theory as put out by the Kremlin is purely a device used to ensure political control. Top leaders are utterly cynical on this point and don't really believe the theory themselves. Nevertheless, they are extremely clever in using it.

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A basic appeal of Communism has been that it is the wave of the future [redacted]

[redacted] appealing to the intelligentsia. Suppression of early theory should be viewed as follows: Soviet theory today is a composite based on Feuerbach and Hegel. Part of Marx was rejected by Lenin. Theory does not stand still. It is adapted to practice. Marx held that revolution could not stand still. It is adapted to practice. Marx held that revolution could not take place in one country but must require revolutions in several countries. Lenin proved him wrong by making a successful revolution in Russia.

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[redacted] The 50th birthday celebration for each member of the Politburo is regularly celebrated. Molotov is the logical successor, but Stalin would not hesitate to liquidate either Malenkov or Molotov if he thought it necessary. 25X1

[redacted] When Stalin dies he will turn power over to Molotov. At present Malenkov has taken over the functions of Zhdanov. The unusual publicity is not surprising since Malenkov controls the press. The publicity will not improve his standing with the people. The only Politburo member who was ever loved by the people was Kirov, that's why he was liquidated. 25X1

[redacted] when Stalin dies [redacted] 25X1

No great or fundamental changes are to be expected - the contingency has been well planned for. Past changes have been dictated by self interest. Only if confronted by overwhelming threat to their own security, would the leaders be likely to modify policy. But they fear the people itself far more than external threats. 25X1

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